



EMS Special Memorandum - #21-001

Date: January 12, 2021

To: Mendocino/ Sonoma County EMS Providers and System Stakeholders

From: Bryan Cleaver
Regional EMS Administrator

Mark Luoto, MD
Regional EMS Medical Director

Re: Emergency Accreditation Authorization Process for EMT Administration of Vaccine

The intent of this EMS Special Memo is to provide the process for accreditation of Emergency Medical Technicians certified by CVEMSA to administer vaccines as Local Optional Scope of Practice (LOSOP).

To support the response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency CVEMSA has requested LOSOP enhancement consistent with California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 22 Section 100064 that allows local EMS Agencies to accredit EMTs beyond basic scope of practice. This EMS Special Memo outlines the requirements for EMTs to receive accreditation authorization.

Individual Eligibility

To be eligible for accreditation, EMTs must:

- Have a current active California EMT Certificate
- Have an affiliation with a sponsoring ALS Provider within the CVEMSA region.

Individuals holding a valid California Paramedic license, but not accredited to practice within the CVEMSA region, may accredit as vaccinators under this process. Provider affiliation requirements for non-accredited paramedics are the same as those for EMTs.

ALS Provider Agency Eligibility

ALS Provider Agencies must provide a letter to CVEMSA identifying the provider agency medical director who will be designated an "Optional Skills Medical Director" for the purpose of the accreditation process. Optional Skills Medical Directors are responsible for the oversight of EMTs sponsored by the ALS Provider agency, although they may delegate the performance of oversight activities to designated licensed staff at the paramedic level or higher.

Sponsoring ALS Provider agencies must verify the training and competency of their sponsored EMTs and are responsible for ensuring ongoing clinical competency. ALS Providers may sponsor EMTs of affiliated or partnered agencies that operate at the BLS level. ALS Providers may sponsor volunteers at their discretion.

Process for approval

To obtain accreditation as a vaccinator, EMTs must complete CVEMSA-approved training and demonstrate competency to their sponsoring ALS Provider. Sponsoring ALS Providers will submit a roster (updated as needed) of those EMTs the ALS Provider agency has verified have completed training and verified as competent and are affiliated with the Provider agency.

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Upon receipt of completed roster, CVEMSA will review and provide authorization to practice to the sponsoring ALS Provider. ALS Providers will be responsible for notifying their sponsored EMTs of their status as approved vaccinators under the emergency accreditation authorization. CVEMSA will not issue individual letters or accreditation cards for EMTs accredited under the emergency accreditation authorization.

Quality Management

Sponsoring ALS Providers are responsible for monitoring quality of care delivered by their sponsored EMTs and addressing any identified need for remediation. Sponsoring ALS Providers may suspend sponsorship for competency concerns at any time. If a sponsoring ALS Provider suspends sponsorship of any EMT, the emergency accreditation authorization granted via this EMS Special Memo is considered suspended as well. Sponsoring ALS Providers must report any suspension of sponsorship to CVEMSA within 24 hours. CVEMSA shall investigate any occurrence of suspended sponsorship in collaboration with the ALS Provider agency.

Disciplinary Process

For the purpose of this Emergency Accreditation Authorization Process, any individual failing to demonstrate competency after initial approval shall be offered an opportunity to undergo remedial education per the sponsoring ALS Provider Continuous Quality Improvement Plan. Individuals unable to demonstrate competency after a remediation attempt are subject to EMS Agency action against their accreditation authorization in accordance with CCR Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 6.

Limited Term

The emergency accreditation process and any authorizations issued described herein shall be valid for a maximum of one year from date policy issuance in conformity with Sonoma County Code.

Links:

**CVEMSA Emergency Accreditation Authorization for EMT Vaccinators
ALS Provider Sponsored EMT Roster**

CVEMSA-Approved Training and Competency Assessment